

From: [Borchert, Claudia, NMENV](#)
To: [Borchert, Claudia, NMENV](#)
Subject: Writing in support of SB14 NM Clean Fuel Standard Act
Date: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 5:46:42 PM

From: Sarah Wentzel-Fisher
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 8:56 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Writing in support of SB14 NM Clean Fuel Standard Act

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I would like to register my support for NM SB 14 The Clean Fuel Standard Act. Professionally, I direct the Quivira Coalition, but I write as a livestock producer, board member of the Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance and Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, and citizen of New Mexico who cares deeply about our working lands.

In the past three years, the Quivira Coalition has initiated work focused on improving soil health on working lands in New Mexico. My partner's farm, Polk's Folly, a diversified hog operation in the East Mountains, has actively engaged in projects to increase capture of farm waste products to create amendments to restore rangeland in the state. While not directly related to this bill, the way we approach climate change must be multi-sector and multi-faceted. I see a direct connection and benefit to the work we are doing here and SB14. The bill represents an opportunity to support and incentivise land management practices that not only will help address excess carbon in the atmosphere, but other essential ecosystems functions like biodiversity and clean water, as well as increase the economic viability of agricultural operations.

SB 14 would reward those ranchers who are practicing regenerative grazing and are able to document increased carbon sequestration on their rangelands. In turn, these practices would increase ranch profitability and positively impact small businesses in surrounding rural communities as a result, including new processing plants which are badly needed in New Mexico and marketing jobs for local residents.

The Quivira Coalition is currently working on a Collaborative Conservation Grant funded by the US Department of Agriculture to work with ranchers in New Mexico to create ranch plans focused on soil health and designed to help ranchers shift to climate resilient, regenerative grazing and land management practices. Part of our work revolves around not only looking to existing vehicles for financial support like NRCS EQIP programs, but also keeping a pulse on emerging carbon markets which help offset the costs of shifting a ranch to regenerative practices.

In this vein, SB 14 would support and incentivize ranchers to practice good documentable management techniques as well as offering the potential for a new local revenue stream of import to both ranchers and their local community. Offering financial credits for ecosystem services such as soil and habitat improvement, carbon accrual and biomass production, would incentivize ranchers and other landowners to manage their lands with regenerative practices; these could in turn encourage healthy range management, improve ranch profitability and stimulate local rural development, offering alternative income streams such as the sale of value-added meat products, processing plants, biomass sales and hunting and tourism possibilities.

I believe that NM SB 14 is a step in the right direction.

Sincerely,
Sarah Wentzel-Fisher

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Sarah Wentzel-Fisher, Executive Director

QuiviraCoalition.org

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[Please use this calendar link](#) to make finding a time to meet easy.